Shemes to Augment Ground Water Resources

1654. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) what are the details of the schemes for augmentation of ground water resources in different agro-climatic zones in the country as proposed by the Central Ground Water Board;

(b) what is the total estimated expenditure on this scheme during the Eighth Plan;

(c) what will be the States share in this expenditure; and

(d) what progress has been made in the scheme so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.K. THUNGON) :

(a) to (d) The Government has sanctioned a scheme on 'Studies in Recharge of Ground Water' The total outlay for the scheme included in the 8th Plan is Rs. 367 lakhs. The scheme envisages exploratory studies and pilot operation recharge studies in selected areas by constructing recharge structure like percolation tanks, sub-surface dams, injection wells, check dams etc. Exploratory studies for artificial recharge cover orange and banana belts of Amravati and Jalgaon districts of Maharathtra and Gauribidanur and Mulbagal talukas of Kolar district in Karnataka. The pilot operation recharge studies cover the National Capital Territory of Delhi and the Union Territory of Chandigarh. The investigation work for selection of appropriate sites for experimental/ operational artificial recharge structures is in progress in the States of Karnataka, Maharashtra and National Capital Territory of Delhi. The civil work envisaged under the scheme is to be carried out by State Governments/Union Territory on completion of investigation work for selection of appropriate sites.

The Central Ground Water Board has also formulated a Centrally Sponsored Scheme to assist the States for recharge of ground water. The scheme envisages (i) location of sites for 500 spreading basins, 500 percolation tanks and 1000 sub-surface dams and (ii) construction of pilot recharge facilities at 600 surface spreading sites, 200 percolation tanks and 1040 sub-surface dam sites. The estimated cost of the scheme is Rs. 81 crores with a component of Rs. 42 crores as central assistance and Rs. 39 crores as State's share during the 8th Plan. This scheme has been referred to Planning Commission for obtaining approval of the full Planning Commission.

Narmada Dam

1655. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the health experts of the World Bank, the Narmada Dam was being constructed in violation of the principles of malaria control and that the incidents of malaria and Japanese encephalities would be high in the coming years; and

(b) if so, what preventive measures are proposed to be taken to check it ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.K. THUNGON) : (a) and (b) During discussions with the World Bank's mission in July, 1992, action plans initiated by the Government of Gujarat to counter the threat of malaria were explained. The Government of Gujarat have also agreed to implement not only the conventional methods for control of vector borne diseases like malaria and Japanese encephalities but also the engineering methods of their prevention. Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra have also their respective plans. The need for greater caution in these matters is well taken. At present all required measures are being carried out regularly in the Sardar Sarovar Project area and the situation is fully under control.